



July 2010

## Independence Day Safety Message

1. Two-hundred and thirty-four years ago on 4 July 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress. It was a statement of the principles that had led Congress to vote for the independence of the American colonies two days earlier. As we celebrate our nation's independence, and enjoy the freedoms we so greatly value, it is important to remember that preventable accidents increase during the holiday period.
2. Many Soldiers and their families will take advantage of the warmer weather by traveling around the peninsula and participating in recreational and sports activities. Pedestrian safety, sports activities, excessive alcohol consumption, domestic violence, and suicidal behavior continue to be areas of concern. As we enjoy our time off and celebrate, we must also take the necessary safety precautions to ensure that we return to work safely.
3. Leaders must ensure that all personnel are aware of potential hazards during the holiday weekend. I charge all commanders and supervisors to emphasize personal responsibility, the consequences of alcohol abuse, and the importance of the buddy system. Encourage them to take care of each other and be a "Band of Brothers and Sisters" both on and off duty.
4. I am extremely proud of you, and I want you to take care of yourself and instill in your Soldiers, responsibility for one another. I wish each of you a safe holiday, and I thank you for your continued selfless service to our Army and to our Nation.
5. Pacific Victors!

JOSEPH F. FIL, JR.  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

